LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1, 13, and 28 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged. The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1.   (Currently Amended) A method for routing application-level messages in a message
2 routing network, comprising:
3   (a) providing a message routing network for exchanging application-level messages
4 between a plurality of services, said message routing network being built on an open platform
5 overlaying a public network and managing said plurality of services, each of said services being
6 accessible by others of said plurality of services according to properties and permissions
7 associated with each service in said plurality of services;
8   (b) invoking a first service among the plurality of services during a logical routing of an
9 application-level message in said message routing network, said logical routing allowing said
10 first service to ~~act on~~ **modify a route or a context for** said message without said message being
11 physically delivered to said first service, said first service invocation having a first context; and
12   (c) invoking a second service among the plurality of services during said logical routing
13 of said message in said message routing network, said logical routing allowing said second
14 service to ~~act on~~ **modify a route or a context for** said message without said message being
15 physically delivered to said second service, said second service invocation having a second
16 context that is defined at least in part by said first service;
17   said logical routing determined by an evaluation of routing scripts defined by individual
18 ones of said plurality of services such that each of said services is capable of including one or
19 more others of said plurality of services in said logical routing without being included in a route
20 for physical delivery of said message.

1 2.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context to an invocation
2 includes an identity of an invoker service.

1 3.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context to an invocation
2 includes arguments to an invoked service.

1   4.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a session identifier for said message.

1   5.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a topic for said message.

1   6.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes billing responsibility for said invocation.

1   7.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said message routing
2   network controls at least part of an invocation.

1   8.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in a header element of a message.

1   9.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in a body element of a message.

1   10.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in an attachment of a message.

1   11.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising restoring said
2   context, upon return from said second service invocation, to said first context.

1   12.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising adding a returned
2   context from said second service invocation to said restored context.

1   13.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a machine-readable
2   medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a computer to:
3   invoke a first one of a plurality of services during a logical routing of an application-
4   level message in a message routing network, said message routing network being built on an
5   open platform overlaying a public network and managing said plurality of services, each of said
6   services being accessible by others of said plurality of services according to properties and
7   permissions associated with each service in said plurality of services, said logical routing

8   allowing said first service to ~~act on~~ **modify a route or a context for** said message without said

9   message being physically delivered to said first service, said first service invocation having a

10   first context; and

11   invoke a second service during said logical routing of said message in said message

12   routing network, said logical routing allowing said second service to ~~act on~~ **modify a route or a**

13   **context for** said message without said message being physically delivered to said second service,

14   said second service invocation having a second context that is defined at least in part by said first

15   service;

16   said logical routing determined by an evaluation of routing scripts defined by individual

17   ones of said plurality of services such that each of said services is capable of including one or

18   more others of said plurality of services in said logical routing without being included in a route

19   for physical delivery of said message.

1   14.   (Previously Presented) A message routing system, comprising:

2   a message routing network that enables routing of application-level messages between a

3   plurality of services, said message routing network being built on an open platform overlaying a

4   public network, wherein said routing is based on a logical routing of said message that is effected

5   through a sequence of invocations among said plurality of services, said logical routing allowing

6   said services to be invoked without the messages being physically delivered to one or more of

7   the services among the plurality of services, wherein a context of an invocation is defined at least

8   in part by an invoking service, wherein upon return from a service invocation, said message

9   routing network restores a message context to a context state of an invoking service of said

10   service invocation, said logical routing determined by an evaluation of routing scripts defined by

11   individual ones of said plurality of services such that each of said services is capable of including

12   one or more others of said plurality of services in said logical routing without being included in a

13   route for physical delivery of said message.

1   15.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context of an invocation is

2   defined at least in part by a header of a message.

1   16.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context to an invocation

2   includes an identity of an invoker service.

1   17.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes arguments to an invoked service.

1   18.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a session identifier for said message.

1   19.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a topic for said message.

1   20.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes billing responsibility for said invocation.

1   21.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein said message routing
2   network controls at least part of an invocation.

1   22.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein said logical routing occurs
2   prior to a physical routing of a message.

1   23.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein at least part of said logical
2   routing occurs after initiation of a physical routing of a message.

1   24.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein physical routing of a
2   message occurs at identified points during said logical routing.

1   25.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in a header element of a message.

1   26.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in a body element of a message.

1   27.   (Original) The message routing system of claim 14, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   included at least in part in an attachment of a message.

1   28.   (Currently Amended) A message routing method for routing application-level messages
2   between a plurality of services, comprising:
3   (a) evaluating routing scripts defined by individual ones of said plurality of services to
4   determine a logical routing of an application-level message such that each of said services is
5   capable of including one or more others of said plurality of services in said logical routing
6   without being included in a route for physical delivery of said message;
7   (b) invoking a first service that receives only logical delivery of said message, said
8   logical delivery allowing said first service to ~~act on~~ **modify a route or a context for** said
9   message without said message being physically delivered to said first service, wherein said first
10   service invocation has a first context defined at least in part by a first invoking service;
11   (c) invoking a second service, said second service invocation having a second context
12   that is defined at least in part by said first service, wherein said second service invocation is
13   managed by a message routing network on behalf of said first service, said message routing
14   network being built on an open platform overlaying a public network; and
15   (d) delivering said message having said second context to said second service over said
16   public network.

1   29.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context of an invocation is
2   defined at least in part by a header of a message.

1   30.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes an identity of an invoker service.

1   31.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes arguments to an invoked service.

1   32.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a session identifier for said message.

1   33.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context to an invocation
2   includes a topic for said message.

34.   (Original) The message routing method of claim 28, wherein a context to an invocation
includes billing responsibility for said invocation.